

June 5, 2018

**Ex Parte**

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*Re:* ET Docket No. 16-56, ET Docket No. 14-165, MB Docket No. 15-146, RM-11745, GN  
Docket No. 12-268

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 1, 2018, Paula Boyd and Paul Garnett of Microsoft Corporation and I met with Umair Javed, Legal Advisor for Commissioner Rosenworcel. We provided an update on Microsoft's Rural Airband Initiative, which now includes 23 projects in 15 States. These deployments demonstrate the power of White Spaces technologies to bring broadband access to rural communities. We also requested that the FCC rule on pending petitions for reconsideration related to White Spaces technologies. Specifically, we stated that the Commission should affirm its rules on channel 37 and replace its current database "push" notification rule with a rule establishing a fast-polling channel. In addition, we discussed how Microsoft's White Spaces experimental licenses point the way to effective use of the band to serve rural communities. Finally, we provided Mr. Javed with the attached letters from a bipartisan group of Governors of various states asking the FCC to support White Spaces technologies to better enable access to broadband internet.

Pursuant to the FCC's rules, I have filed a copy of this notice electronically in the above-referenced dockets. If you require any additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Paul Margie  
*Counsel to Microsoft Corporation*

cc: meeting participants



September 21, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, and related issues (GN Docket No. 12-268; ET Docket No. 14-165; MB Docket No. 15-146; ET Docket No. 16-56)*

Dear Chairman Pai:

As governors, we recognize that technology is transforming every job, every company, and every industry. These unstoppable forces have the power to grow economies and improve the livelihood of citizens in every corner of our nation, urban and rural. Innovative approaches that foster private investment, resulting in lower costs and increased access for consumers, must be seized upon. Nowhere is this more important than affordable, accessible broadband internet access – the critical infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Approximately 34 million of our nation's citizens lack access to quality broadband services, especially in underserved rural areas. Whether it's students trying to research a topic at home or entrepreneurs launching a business, the digital divide should not limit any citizen's ability to learn, innovate, or connect to the numerous advantages enabled by robust internet access.

We applaud and echo your belief that broadband should be available to every American who wants it. Consequently, we are writing to request that at least three white space channels in every U.S. market be reserved to better enable access to broadband internet. If approved, companies from across the private sector will be able to invest and deploy innovative white space technologies. Furthermore, we believe that concerns from all parties can be addressed in a way that allows this game-changing initiative to positively impact the lives of countless Americans.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Doug Burgum".

Governor Doug Burgum  
State of North Dakota

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee  
State of Washington

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Asa Hutchinson".

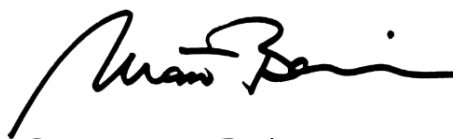
Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State of Arkansas

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Hickenlooper".

Governor John Hickenlooper  
State of Colorado

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sam Brownback".

Governor Sam Brownback  
State of Kansas

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matt Bevin".

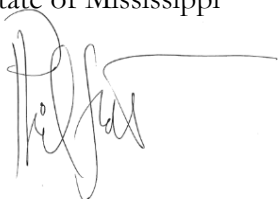
Governor Matt Bevin  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phil Bryant".

Governor Phil Bryant  
State of Mississippi

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gina Raimondo".

Governor Gina Raimondo  
State of Rhode Island

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phil Scott".

Governor Phil Scott  
State of Vermont

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terence R. McAuliffe".

Governor Terence R. McAuliffe  
Commonwealth of Virginia



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

August 24, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write today to strongly endorse and encourage FCC approval of using TV "White Space" in the wireless spectrum to extend broadband internet connectivity to remote and under-served areas like so much of Idaho's vast mountainous terrain.

As you know, employing the latest technology is essential to creating economic opportunity in an increasingly competitive world. However, it is challenging to cost-effectively secure technology infrastructure in states like Idaho. The result is little to no high-speed connectivity in locations most desperate to diversify their economies.

A recent proposal to carry broadband internet wirelessly over unused television channels or "White Space" in the broadcast spectrum promises real progress toward deploying reliable high-speed internet to rural areas. I ask only that you reaffirm the FCC's commitment to ensuring that no existing uses of White Space bandwidth, such as medical telemetry used in some Idaho hospitals, would be degraded by the broadband proposal.

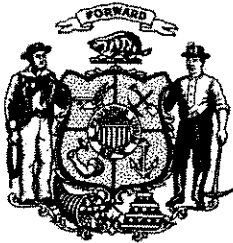
That being said, remotely located citizens of my state deserve technological opportunities for business, education and other pursuits on par with the rest of Idaho. I strongly urge the FCC to approve the use of White Space for broadband internet connectivity in order to help the people of Idaho and other rural states achieve their economic and personal aspirations.

Thank you in advance for your positive consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can provide further insight into Idaho's perspective on this issue.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho



**SCOTT WALKER**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

P.O. Box 7863  
MADISON, WI 53707

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July 6, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, and related issues (GN Docket No. 12-268; ET Docket No. 14-165; MB Docket No. 15-146; ET Docket No. 16-56)

Dear Chairman Pai:

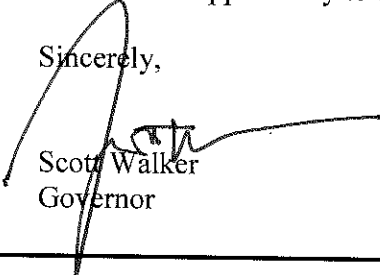
My Administration believes in the power of technology and innovation to drive economic growth, improve education, and create opportunity. We have seen the combination of innovative technology and access to broadband transform communities in Wisconsin by connecting students to new skills, helping doctors treat their patients, and empowering businesses to reach new markets and create new jobs.

Those opportunities remain out of reach for 34 million rural and urban Americans who live in communities without access to robust and affordable broadband Internet. That has created a serious opportunity divide and is an impediment to economic growth. As you have stated, "every American who wants broadband should be able to get it."

I understand that the FCC is considering whether to finalize rules that will result in at least three white space channels in every U.S. market to provide broadband Internet. If approved, the private sector is poised to deploy innovative, low-frequency white spaces technologies that will transform underserved communities by providing them with access to robust, affordable broadband. I also understand that several interest groups (i.e. Wireless Medical Telemetry Services) have raised concerns regarding interference with their operations if the rules are finalized in their current form. My Administration is hopeful that the parties can reach consensus on the rules soon so that the FCC can proceed with this important initiative.

Thank you for considering this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office, as we would welcome an opportunity to discuss this topic with you further.

Sincerely,



Scott Walker  
Governor





DENNIS DAUGAARD  
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
CHAIR

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
VICE CHAIR

JAMES D. OGSBURY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 24, 2018

Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Western Governors appreciate the President's goal of expanding connectivity for rural Americans as described in the Executive Order, "Streamlining and Expediting Requests to Locate Broadband Facilities in Rural America." We see the Federal Communication Commission's efforts to improve rural broadband access as crucial in achieving those goals.

Many western communities lack access to broadband internet due to the high cost of infrastructure and the low number of customers in potential service areas. This has left many rural businesses at a competitive disadvantage and citizens without access to telework, telemedicine, and distance learning opportunities.

Western Governors support not only expansion of broadband capacity where economically feasible, but also the use of innovative technologies that have the potential to deliver reliable internet access at lower costs than traditional broadband infrastructure. TV White Spaces (TVWS) technology represents one possible mechanism to achieve that goal. TVWS technology may be well suited for deployment in some rural areas due to its low-cost infrastructure requirements and ability to transmit signals over long distances and through rugged terrain. Pilot projects in 13 states – including Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington – will help determine the viability of TVWS technology in rural areas.

The long-term success of TVWS technology relies on consistent access to spectrum. We ask that adequate spectrum capacity be reserved for unlicensed use to support the growth of TVWS technology in rural communities.

Broadband internet connectivity is the critical infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and is a necessity for businesses, individuals, schools and government. We look forward to working with you to assure that rural America shares in the economic, medical, and educational benefits that will result from expanded access.

Sincerely,



Dennis Daugaard  
Governor of South Dakota  
Chair, WGA



David Ige  
Governor of Hawaii  
Vice Chair, WGA

*Identical letters sent to Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel*

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Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202

WESTGOV.ORG